

2013-212\_\_\_\_\_BWR Vessel & Internals Project (BWRVIP)

November 21, 2013

TO: All BWRVIP Committee Members



FROM: Chuck Wirtz, FirstEnergy, BWRVIP Integration Chairman  
Andy McGehee, EPRI, BWRVIP Program Manager

SUBJECT: NRC Feedback Received During the November 6, 2013 Meeting between the BWRVIP, General Electric-Hitachi (GEH) and the NRC on the GEH Safety Communications (SCs) Concerning Annulus Pressurization (AP) and Recirculation Line Break (RLB) Acoustic (AC) Loads

The purpose of this letter is to communicate a concern that the NRC expressed during the November 6, 2013 meeting between the BWRVIP, GEH and the NRC to discuss the impact of the GEH SCs on BWRVIP guidelines. SCs 09-01, 09-03, Rev. 1, 11-07 and 12-20 regarding AP and/or RLB AC loads issues were discussed during the meeting. The NRC expressed concern that non-GEH vendors performing calculations to determine AP and/or RLB AC loads or flaw evaluations for licensees might not be accounting for the issues identified by the SCs.

For example, a vendor performs core shroud weld flaw evaluations using stress inputs provided by the licensee from their Core Shroud Screening Report which was prepared by GEH. If the stress inputs did not account properly for the AP or RLB AC loads, the analysis may result in non-conservative safety margins and/or inspection frequencies.

Given the subtlety of such an error, the BWRVIP took an action item to notify our members of this concern. This letter accomplishes that action item. In summary, it is recommended that members who provide input taken from existing GEH screening reports or flaw evaluation handbooks to other vendors for flaw evaluations, ensure that the impact of the SCs on that input has been evaluated.

A full summary of the meeting and other feedback received from the NRC will be provided once the NRC issues their meeting summary.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Carter at 704.595.2519 or by email at [bcarter@epri.com](mailto:bcarter@epri.com) or Chuck Wirtz by telephone at 440.280.7665 or by e-mail at [cjwirtz@firstenergycorp.com](mailto:cjwirtz@firstenergycorp.com).

Together . . . Shaping the Future of Electricity

**PALO ALTO OFFICE**

3420 Hillview Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94304-1395 USA • 650.855.2000 • Customer Service 800.313.3774 • [www.epri.com](http://www.epri.com)

c: BWRVIP Technical Chairs  
BWRVIP EPRI Task Managers